

Ground Operations (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700615

1. Project Description

A. Statement of GO Activity

Acquisition and maintenance for three heavy-duty trailers with powered dumping capability and appropriate attachments, along with appropriate maintenance, repair, licensing, and storage costs. These trailers will be used to move materials within the trail corridor and to otherwise inaccessible areas of the Rubicon Trail to support the El Dorado County Department of Transportation (DOT) erosion control and maintenance efforts on the Rubicon Trail. Materials moved will be used to fill damaged areas of trail and rock-armored existing trail footprint to minimize impacts of OHV travel. The trailers will also be used in seasonal cleanup efforts. The match for Maintenance Workers comes from the volunteers who will be driving and operating these trailers in these erosion-control, rock-armoring, and trash-hauling uses.

Use of these trailers will allow rocks from on-site and tree-farm waste logs from off-site to be recycled and used for barrier materials, erosion-control, and rock-armoring. Most of the offsite rock material that will be transported in the grant-funded trailers operated by the grant-matching maintenance workers will be recycled 'tunnel muck' sourced from USFS, left-over from the blasting/excavation of the Loon Lake Powerhouse and raceway.

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

The Rubicon Trail enjoys approximately 25,000 visitor days per year. El Dorado County's (EDC) Department of Transportation (DOT) has primary responsibility for road maintenance on the trail that these visitors access. California Geological Survey completed a trail assessment in 2008 and delivered it to DOT in 2009 – this assessment identified ~80 water bars and ~30 rock fords that to construct and/or maintain. Improved equipment is required to transport materials to complete this very aggressive list of drainage features and fords in advance of the March 2012 due date set by the Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) mandated by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board.

Historically, construction has been done on the trail in accessible locations by the County using mechanized equipment. In remote areas of the trail, volunteers and informal trail user groups have provided maintenance with hand tools and dynamite.

RTF plans to acquire and use three heavy-duty trailers to OHV benefit by:

1. Allowing more immediate and more accurate installation of erosion mitigation features, reducing erosion and the risk of sedimentation sooner than could otherwise be accomplished, improving the environment, keeping the trail open and retaining OHV opportunities.
2. Preventing damage to the trail improves the safety of the trail, thus improving the quality of the experience for OHV users and reducing liability to the trail user and the County.
3. Improving erosion control and trail quality allows for increased visitor days without degradation of the trail, thus increasing user OHV opportunities.

Existing jeep trailers are best suited to moving light, high-volume materials like camping goods. When pressed into service moving cobble, rip-rap, and boulders, normal jeep trailers are easily overloaded and broken. Since traditional jeep trailers were manufactured without a tailgate, they require manual unloading, or must be unhitched and pivoted on the wheels to dump them – this is difficult to manage quickly without compromising user safety. Acquiring and using three heavy-duty trailers with powered dumping capability will both benefit OHV users as listed above, and also enhance volunteer safety while using this equipment. These new dump trailers can also be used in conjunction with the mechanized maintenance equipment acquired in the 2009/2010 OHMVR grant cycle.

C. Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles

The Rubicon Trail 4-wheel drive route extends from Georgetown (at State Highway 193 in El Dorado County) to Lake

Tahoe (near Tahoma in Placer County) for a total distance of approximately 22 miles. The unmaintained portion of the trail in El Dorado County extends from the Wentworth Springs Campground (western limit) and Loon Lake (southern limit) to the Placer County Line (northeastern limit) is about 12 miles long and winds through the trees and rugged granite common to the area. Parts of the trail also pass through the Eldorado National Forest and portions of private lands.

D. Location and description of OHV opportunities

The Rubicon Trail is located in the California High Sierra, due west of Lake Tahoe, approximately 80 miles east of Sacramento, and 35 miles east of Placerville. This world-renowned 4-wheel drive route leads from Georgetown (at State Highway 193 in El Dorado County) to Lake Tahoe (near Tahoma in Placer County) for a total distance of approximately 22 miles. The unmaintained portion of the trail in El Dorado County extends from the Wentworth Springs Campground (western limit) and Loon Lake (southern limit) to the Placer County Line (northeastern limit) is about 12 miles long and winds through the trees and rugged granite common to the area. Parts of the trail pass through the Eldorado National Forest and portions of private lands.

Elevations run from approximately 5400 to over 7,000 feet (approximately 1,646 meters to over 2,134 meters). The section of road from Georgetown to Wentworth Springs (also known as the McKinney-Rubicon Springs Road) is a maintained road, while the off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail begins near Wentworth Springs Campground. There is an additional trailhead at Loon Lake that ties into the trail just south of the Ellis Creek crossing. Most visitors begin the run from either Wentworth Springs Campground or Loon Lake, which are accessible off U.S. Highway 50. The trail from the Wentworth Springs trailhead starts with an uphill climb. Once at the top, the trail levels out to a challenging drive to Ellis Creek. From Ellis Creek, the trail winds through the trees and rugged granite on its way to Walker Hill. From Walker Hill, the trail winds over granite to the north of Spider Lake and descends southward to Buck Island Lake. The trail then climbs east at the edge of the Desolation Wilderness area and then drops due north into Rubicon Springs. The trail continues east into Placer County and ends at Tahoma.

Existing OHV opportunities in and around the proposed Project Area attract both street legal and "green sticker" off-road motor vehicles. As a result, users travel the trail on and in a wide range of all-terrain vehicles, including dirt bikes, ATVs and a variety of 4-wheel drive vehicles, from street-legal SUVs to vehicles built for the sole purpose of driving the trail. Because of its difficulty, the trail is recommended for short wheelbase vehicles with all skid plates in place.

2. Rerouting Requirements

Rerouting

- (a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

Additional Documentation

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1. **Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
2. **Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
3. **Project-Specific Maps**
Attachments: [Rubicon Trail Map](#)
4. **Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	Rubicon Trail Foundation		
PROJECT TITLE :	Ground Operations (FINAL)	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-04-22-G01
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>Acquisition and maintenance for three heavy-duty trailers with powered dumping capability and appropriate attachments, along with appropriate maintenance, repair, licensing, and storage costs. These trailers will be used to move materials within the trail corridor and to otherwise inaccessible areas of the Rubicon Trail to support the El Dorado County Department of Transportation (DOT) erosion control and maintenance efforts on the Rubicon Trail. Materials moved will be used to fill damaged areas of trail and rock-armour existing trail footprint to minimize impacts of OHV travel. The trailers will also be used in seasonal cleanup efforts. The match for Maintenance Workers comes from the volunteers who will be driving and operating these trailers in these erosion-control, rock-armoring, and trash-hauling uses.</p> <p>Use of these trailers will allow rocks from on-site and tree-farm waste logs from off-site to be recycled and used for barrier materials, erosion-control, and rock-armoring. Most of the offsite rock material that will be transported in the grant-funded trailers operated by the grant-matching maintenance workers will be recycled 'tunnel muck' sourced from USFS, left-over from the blasting/excavation of the Loon Lake Powerhouse and raceway.</p>		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Maintenance Worker	120.000	36.000	HRS	0.00	4,320.00	4,320.00
2	Contracts						
3	Materials / Supplies						
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Other-Permits and Licensing	3.000	35.000	EA	105.00	0.00	105.00
	Other-Sales Tax	3.000	350.000	EA	1,050.00	0.00	1,050.00
	Other-Annual Maintenance	3.000	175.000	EA	525.00	0.00	525.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
 Agency: Rubicon Trail Foundation
 Application: Ground Operations (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Storage	36.000	50.000	MOS	1,800.00	0.00	1,800.00
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				3,480.00	0.00	3,480.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
	Other-heavy-duty trailer, powered dump c	3.000	3800.000	EA	11,400.00	0.00	11,400.00
6	Others						
7	Indirect Costs						
	Indirect Costs-Administrative Costs - St	32.000	46.000	HRS	0.00	1,472.00	1,472.00
Total Program Expenses					14,880.00	5,792.00	20,672.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					14,880.00	5,792.00	20,672.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					14,880.00	5,792.00	20,672.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: Rubicon Trail Foundation
Application: Ground Operations (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	0.00	4,320.00	4,320.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	3,480.00	0.00	3,480.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	11,400.00	0.00	11,400.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	1,472.00	1,472.00	
Total Program Expenses		14,880.00	5,792.00	20,672.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		14,880.00	5,792.00	20,672.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		14,880.00	5,792.00	20,672.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10
- Acquiring and maintaining equipment to transport materials along the trail will have no direct impact on wetlands, navigable waters, sensitive habitats and species, or threatened and endangered species.

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Evaluation Criteria

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 3

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)
☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)
☒ 26% - 50% (3 points)
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 6

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)
☐ Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)
☐ Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)
☐ Potential trespass (2 points)
☐ Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Rubicon Trail is currently under scrutiny by both the El Dorado National Forest and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board. Trail maintenance and erosion controls are specific areas of interest for these agencies. Failure to address trail maintenance could result in trail restriction or closure and loss of OHV opportunity. RTF's small fleet of army surplus Jeep trailers is not holding up well under the sustained abuse of moving heavy materials along the Rubicon Trail, and failure to fund this grant directly threatens the ongoing work managed by El Dorado County. Failure to complete the work directed by the Regional Water Quality Board could result in loss of OHV Opportunity.

3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 9

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)
☒ Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)
☐ Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)
☒ Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)
☐ Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

This grant proposal will provide equipment to transport materials in support of El Dorado County DOT's efforts to install/maintain erosion control features and to maintain the trail or road tread. Rubicon Trail is used by 4x4's, ATV's, side by sides, motorcycles, and hikers, and trail maintenance would support these multiple uses. Funding this grant would sustain OHV Opportunity on Rubicon Trail by providing equipment that will be used to maintain the trail tread and create/maintain drainage/erosion-control features on the trail. Left unmaintained, the trail becomes more difficult and excludes access to users without significant experience and major investments in equipment.

4. Public Input - Q 4.

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
- ☒ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
- ☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

- 1) Project scope and intent discussed at Rubicon Oversight Committee meeting and at Friends of the Rubicon Annual Meeting
- 2) Multiple conference calls and meetings with Rubicon Trail Foundation, Friends of the Rubicon, and El Dorado County Department of Transportation

5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 4 or more (4 points)
- ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)
- ☐ 1 (1 point)
- ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

El Dorado County, Friends of the Rubicon, United States Forest Service, Rubicon Trail Partnership, Inc.

6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)
- ☒ Protecting water quality (1 point)
- ☐ Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)
- ☐ Protecting special-status species (1 point)
- ☐ Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)
- ☐ Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)
- ☐ Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)
- ☐ Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

Materials transported in the grant-funded trailers and operated by the grant-matching maintenance workers will be used to fortify and maintain physical barriers to help keep OHVs on the trail and to protect water quality by maintaining drainage features, reducing erosion and preventing siltation of nearby surface waters.

7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 3

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)
- ☐ Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)
- ☒ Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)
- ☐ Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)

- ☒ Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point) ['tunnel muck' from Loon Dam and tree trunks from Fitch-Rantz plantation]

8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 4

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☐ No (No points)

☒ Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

RTF will source low-VOC emission paint/coating for trailers

9. Motorized Access - Q 9.

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

☒ Camping

☐ Birding

☒ Hiking

☐ Equestrian trails

☒ Fishing

☐ Rock Climbing

☐ Other (Specify)